

## Watershed Operations

April 2009

## Elm Creek (Cen-Tex) Watershed, Texas

### Introduction

Recently constructed dams Nos. 5A and 34 of the Elm Creek Watershed Project require mitigation to meet requirements of the Clean Water Act. These dams provide \$172,600 of annual benefits from flood damage reduction and flood protection in two counties in central Texas.



Site of the Elm Creek Watershed Project in Bell and Milam Counties, Texas.

### Project Description

- **Location:** Bell and Milam Counties, 17th and 31st Congressional Districts
- **Federal Funding:** \$746,000

The mitigation activities on this project will fulfill Clean Water Act permit requirements to compensate for and minimize impacts of these dams on stream and wildlife habitat.

### Partners

- USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Elm Creek Watershed Authority
- Bell County Commissioners Court
- Milam County Commissioners Court
- Central Texas Soil and Water Conservation District

### Benefits

This mitigation project will create shallow water ponds and establish vegetation to improve wildlife habitat. Restoration or enhancement along the stream will include a variety of practices such as the planting of trees and grasses to prevent erosion.

Funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, this project is part of the Obama Administration's plans to modernize the nation's infrastructure, jump-start the economy, and create jobs. NRCS is using Recovery Act dollars to update aging flood control structures, protect and maintain water supplies, improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, and restore wetlands. NRCS acquires easements and restores floodplains to safeguard lives and property in areas along streams and rivers that have experienced flooding.



To enhance wildlife habitat, trees and grasses will be planted along with fencing to protect the area from livestock.

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### **Economic Opportunities**

These mitigation projects in the Elm Creek (Cen-Tex) Watershed will create or save jobs through industries supplying or supporting construction activities and the sale of goods and services. In addition to the jobs created, this program will increase the demand for construction supplies and equipment, adding approximately \$700,000 to the local economy.

### **Statewide Perspective**

The dams within the Elm Creek (Cen-Tex) Watershed are a part of nearly 2,000 dams constructed in Texas by NRCS and local sponsors. These dams continue to provide nearly \$120 million of annual benefits protecting downstream properties, infrastructure, and countless lives across the entire state.

### **For More Information**

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When completed, wildlife habitat and water quality will be improved by this shallow water pond.



The area downstream of Elm Creek Dam No. 34 will be enhanced by planting trees and shrubs to improve wildlife habitat.

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